

On the Stairs

An Abrupt Meeting and What It Led To
By CLARISSA MACKIE

There was a windfall in the home of Linnie Wayland. In the free rural delivery box Linnie found a letter from attorneys in New York announcing that a great-uncle of hers had died and left her a legacy. It was not much of a legacy—only \$500—but it seemed an enormous sum to Linnie. She carried the letter into the house, and by her radiant countenance the family were informed that something had happened.

The first excitement over the question arose. What are you going to do with it? Every one had a different proposition. One said, "You'd better set up a milliner's shop; you're so handy at hat trimming." Another suggested a trip. This probably would be the only chance Linnie would ever have of seeing anything of the world. The suggestions were of all kinds, some practical, some ridiculous. Linnie was the only one who proposed nothing, but she had an idea of her own. She had seen traveling theatrical companies and had been seized with a desire to distinguish herself as an actress.

There was plenty of time to consider the matter, for the division of her uncle's estate was slow, and it was a long while before she received her check. It was hard for her to realize that so small a bit of paper could stand for so large an amount. When she received it her mind was made up, and she announced to her family and friends that she was going to New York to study for the stage.

If there had been a hubbub about the way Linnie should spend her legacy, there was still more of a one now that she had decided upon a method of doing so. Those who advised her had no experience on which to base their recommendations. However, most of them had known of some country girl who had tried to make an entry into that career who had either returned terribly disappointed or had never returned at all. But not one had ever been heard of as even a mediocre actress. But Linnie argued that she, having enough money to enable her to exist for some time without earning a livelihood, would have a much better chance. So to New York she went to learn to be an actress.

The first hole in her \$500 was made by her fare. The second and a larger one was made by some lessons she took from one who declared he could make an actress of her within a few months. But the few months passed and she found she had scarcely made a beginning. And yet her legacy was nearly all gone. She tried to get an engagement on what she knew, but to all her applications a deaf ear was turned.

And now commenced a period of starvation and rage. The poor girl denied herself this and denied herself that, every day cutting down her menu till at last there was nothing left but crackers and milk. The sight of eatables displayed in the windows of restaurants made her all the hungrier. But she knew if she yielded she would take a slice off the few dollars that remained to her.

Her deficiency in clothes troubled her as much as the shortage in food. If nothing succeeds like success, nothing fails like failure. Linnie's forlorn appearance indicated that she was one of the world's failures and was by no means a recommendation. When those to whom she applied for an engagement saw her tawdry apparel they turned a deaf ear at once.

One evening she opened the door of her hall bedroom and peered out into the dimly lighted corridor of the top floor.

From the basement delicious odors of roast lamb, with mint sauce, floated up the stairs to tempt hungry Linnie. Mrs. Wray rented rooms and furnished meals to select people, but she required that the board be paid weekly with undeviating promptness. So Linnie had arranged to keep the hall room and get her meals outside.

Why? Because she needed the dwindling store of money to keep a roof over her bonny head and one can eat "around" cheaper than paying \$7 per week to Mrs. Wray.

So Linnie, who had made a luncheon cover two meals that day, grew frightfully hungry and wondered if she dared boil one of the eggs she had bought on her way home that night.

"She couldn't smell a boiled egg," argued Linnie as she withdrew her head and locked her door. "I shall try, anyway."

She brought out a little gas attachment and screwed it to her gas jet. On the resulting blue flame she set a tiny saucepan, and presently into the boiling water she dropped an egg.

Later, as she ravenously ate the boiled egg with a rather dry accompaniment of crackers, she thought of home.

Her letters home were brave enough, but she did not know that loving eyes read discouragement between the lines. When they sent money to her she invariably returned it, saying that she had enough left. When she needed any she would write.

But she was too proud to write, and

so tonight she was choking down crackers and egg, although she was dying for a cup of tea and roast lamb with mint sauce.

"I hate the old theater!" she murmured once, for never had she had any encouragement from the score of managers and agents she had interviewed.

She put on her hat and coat and went out to mail a letter to her mother. "Little mother mustn't worry about me," she thought.

Halfway down the first flight of stairs her heel caught in a hole in the carpet, and she fell—fell straight into the arms of a big young man who was coming upstairs carrying a plate. On the plate was a large, juicy lamb chop and a fresh roll.

The chop and the roll jumped from the plate and landed on Linnie's muff. She sat down violently on the stairs, while the young man staggered to regain his balance, succeeded and stared helplessly down at her.

For Linnie had seized the chop and was eating it with little purring sounds of satisfaction while she tightly held the roll in her other hand.

"Gracious!" he gasped. "What are you doing that for?"

"I'm hungry," retorted Linnie defiantly. "I know you think I am perfectly dreadful, but—but it's awful to be hungry!"

"Jove! What are you doing in this house—and hungry?" he demanded.

Linnie explained. Her courage had all oozed out when she had grasped the lamb chop. Her face was suffused with burning blushes.

She did not look at the face of the young man. She could not have told you whether he was dark or fair. She only knew that his voice had a familiar ring as he explained that he was merely taking the chop and roll up to his pet dog.

"What will you do?" asked Linnie, with downcast eyes.

"Oh, get another chop," he said cheerfully. "Meanwhile take my advice and don't stay in this town any longer. Take your \$9.30 and go home with it. Home's the best place for you."

"I said I wouldn't come back until I succeeded," protested Linnie.

He laughed infectious.

"Rubbish! It takes more courage and grit to go home and face the folks and admit defeat than it does to struggle on and starve to death. Go home."

"I will," said Linnie, holding out her hand. "Thank you for your advice."

So they shook hands over it, and Linnie decided that she would not write to her mother. She would appear there herself. Would not her homecoming be better than any letter?

The young man crossed the hall and entered the large front room. A dog's joyful bark welcomed him, and Linnie heard him soothing the hungry beast.

"How horrid I've been! He must be disgusted with me," she thought as she poked her trunk before going to bed.

The next night she was safe at home in her mother's arms and repeating for the twentieth time her experiences in the great city.

"How could I have left such a heavenly place as this?" sighed Linnie as she looked around the comfortable rooms and upon her beloved family.

Months went by, and Linnie grew contented at home. Never more was she lured by the attractions of the stage, and she gave herself up to the mysteries of housekeeping and homemaking with such ardor that the village gossips hinted that Linnie Wayland was going to be married.

But marriage was far away from Linnie's thoughts. If ever she thought of a possible lover there came a strange throbbing in her breast and the memory of that moment on the stairs of the boarding house when she had eaten the lamb chop under the astonished gaze of the most attractive man in the world.

"I wonder"—she would murmur blushing, and then dream of a giant youth with a mellow voice and kindly eyes.

It was one February day that Linnie's dreams came true in the most unexpected manner.

"I'm going for a walk, mother," she announced, putting her head into the sitting room.

"Very well, dear. If you're passing Polly Smith's just take her a glass of currant jelly. She has been quite sick."

Linnie walked across the hard crust of snow, pausing now and then to slide over the shining surface. Polly Smith's house was at the end of the village street.

"Come in!" sounded Polly's cracked voice, and Linnie entered.

"The doctor's here, but you can come right in," called Polly from the sitting room, and in went Linnie.

The doctor arose and turned around. "Gracious!" he ejaculated, and held out his hand. "I wondered where I'd meet you again!"

But Linnie's lips were mute as her hand was closed in that warm, firm grasp. Her mind dizzily revolved around one question:

"What was the young man of the lamb chop doing here?"

In answer to her unspoken question he was explaining:

"I'm Sam Hicks. You remember Dr. Hicks, my father?"

"Yes."

"I studied medicine. Father has retired, and I've taken the practice."

So they talked and forgot all about Polly Smith and her ailments, which isn't quite the proper thing for a young doctor to do.

Polly Smith always declared that Dr. Sam Hicks first met his wife in her sitting room. But Sam and Linnie knew better. They fell in love that memorable evening on the stairs in Mrs. Wray's boarding house while Linnie ate the lamb chop intended for Peter's supper.

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Notice to Taxpayers.

The summer or city taxes of the city of Owosso will be due and payable at the city treasurer's office in the city hall, on July 1st. Taxes may be paid during the month of July without per cent being added. After August 1st one per cent each month is added for the next four months.

A. T. WRIGHT, City Treasurer.

Dated, June 24, 1916.

Notice to Taxpayers.

The following special assessment rolls will be ready for collection July 1:

East Cornum avenue sewer.

Exchange street curb.

South Washington street paving from South Washington street bridge to south line of D. G. H. & M. railroad.

Paving South Washington street from south line of D. G. H. & M. railroad to south line of Ridge street.

Repaying Exchange and Ball streets.

Repaying Washington and Main Sts.

Sixty days from July 1 will be given for collection of these rolls, after which time they are returned.

A. T. WRIGHT, City Treasurer.

Probate Order.

State of Michigan. The Probate Court for the County of Shiawassee.

At a session of the Probate Court for said County, held at the Probate Office in the City of Owosso, on the 22nd day of June, A. D. 1916.

Present, Matthew Bush, Judge of Probate.

In the matter of the estate of John Luft, deceased.

On filing the petition of John Miller, praying for the probate of the will of said deceased now filed in this Court.

It is ordered that the 24th day of July next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate Office, be appointed for hearing said petition.

It is further ordered that a copy of this order be published three successive weeks previous to the said day of hearing in the Owosso Times, a newspaper printed and circulating in said County of Shiawassee.

MATTHEW BUSH, Judge of Probate.

(A true copy) CLARISSA GALLOWAY, Probate Register.

Order of Publication.

State of Michigan. The Probate Court for the County of Shiawassee.

At a session of the Probate Court for said County, held at the Probate Office, in the City of Owosso, on Thursday, the 6th day of July, in the year of one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

Present, Matthew Bush, Judge of Probate.

In the matter of the estate of Byron W. Gates, deceased.

On reading and filing the petition of A. E. Shannon, praying for license to sell real estate for distribution.

It is ordered, that the 11th day of August, next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate Office be assigned for hearing said petition.

And it is further ordered, that a copy of this order be published three successive weeks previous to the said day of hearing in the Owosso Times, a newspaper printed and circulating in said County of Shiawassee.

MATTHEW BUSH, Judge of Probate.

By CLARISSA GALLOWAY, Probate Register.

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Order of Publication.

State of Michigan. In the Circuit Court for the County of Shiawassee, in Chancery.

Frank R. Patchett, Plaintiff.

vs. Charles W. Sager, Cornelia L. Sager, Culus M. C. Cook and Sarah O. Cook, his wife, Edward W. Sparrow, George H. Adams, Harvey Adams, George Sidway and Elmeline Sidway his wife, John E. Evans, Trustee, Ira Pinckney, Ida L. Ferris, Celestia R. Colby, Sullivan R. Kelsey, Salmon H. Hoard, Charles P. Hoard and Ella L. Hoard his wife, Charles Hoard, Chauncey H. Hoard, Charles Conklin, Alice Harding, Amos E. Hoard, Jonah Fuller, Thomas Curtis, Hiram Curtis, Henry Van Voorhes, Florence M. Van Voorhes, Charles H. Shepard, John Evans, Truman C. Cary, Edw. C. Kimberly, Charles Fuller, James C. Fuller, Dexter Fuller, the Board of Supervisors of Shiawassee County, Michigan, or their heirs, or any of their unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, and assigns and also all persons who are or may become entitled to claim under provision of certain coal leases, made upon the 28th day of November, 1908, and upon the 5th day of October, 1909, and upon the 14th day of September, 1915, wherein it was provided that the second party agreed to commence coal operations within three years, and if not, first party should receive a royalty of \$1.00 per acre in advance.

Defendants.

Suit pending in the Circuit Court for the said County of Shiawassee, in Chancery, on the 15th day of June, A. D. 1916.

First. In this cause it appearing from the sworn Bill of Complaint and the affidavit of Leon F. Miner, in said cause, that the residences of the Defendants above named are unknown, except the residence of the Defendant, the Board of Supervisors of said County, Michigan and that it is unknown whether such persons are living or dead, or where they may reside, or whether they are living or where they or some of them assigned to any persons or persons, or if dead, whether they or their heirs have personal representatives or heirs living or where they or some of them may reside, or whether such title, interest, claim, lien or possible right has been disposed of by will, and it also appearing that after diligent search and inquiry, the names of the persons here included in this cause cannot be ascertained.

2nd. Therefore, on motion of Leon F. Miner, attorney for plaintiffs, it is ordered that the appearance of said defendants be included in said cause on or before the 27th day of September, 1916, and that in case of their appearance within fifteen (15) days after service on them of a copy of said Bill of Complaint, and that in default thereof, that the said Bill of Complaint take as confessed by said defendants.

3rd. It is further ordered that within twenty (20) days of the date hereof, the said plaintiff cause a copy of this order to be published in the Owosso Times, a newspaper published and circulating in said county, that such publication be continued therein once in each week for six (6) successive weeks.

4th. That this suit is brought to quiet the title to the southeast quarter of the southeast one-quarter of section 25, and the northeast one-quarter of the northeast one-quarter of section 33, and the northwest one-quarter of the northwest one-quarter, and the north one-half of the northeast one-quarter of the north one-half of the northeast one-quarter of section 34, and the west one-half of the north one-half of the northeast one-quarter of section 33 and the southeast one-quarter of the southeast one-quarter of section 34, and the northeast one-quarter of section 34, and the east one-half of the southeast one-quarter of section 34, all being in township 6 north, range 2 east, Shiawassee County, Michigan.

Dated this, the 26th day of June, A. D. 1916.

SELDON S. MINER, Circuit Judge.

ALBERT L. NICHOLS, County Clerk.

LEON F. MINER, Attorney for Plaintiff.

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Commissioners' Notice.

In the matter of the estate of Jacob W. Smith, deceased.

We the undersigned, having been appointed by the Hon. Matthew Bush, Judge of Probate in and for the County of Shiawassee, State of Michigan, Commissioners to receive, examine and adjust all claims and demands of all persons against said estate, do hereby give notice that we will meet at the Owosso Savings Bank in the City of Owosso, in said County, on Friday, the 11th day of August, A. D. 1916, and on Wednesday, the 11th day of October, A. D. 1916 at ten o'clock in the forenoon of each of said days, for the purpose of receiving and adjusting all claims against said estate, and that four months from the 10th day of June, A. D. 1916, are allowed to creditors to present their claims to said Commissioners for adjustment and allowance.

Dated the 10th day of June, A. D. 1916.

ASA D. WHIPPLE, CHARLES W. JENNINGS, Commissioners.

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Order of Publication.

State of Michigan. The Probate Court for the County of Shiawassee.

At a session of the Probate Court for said County, held at the Probate Office in the City of Owosso, on the 22nd day of June, in the year one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

Present, Matthew Bush, Judge of Probate.

In the matter of the estate of William H. Lyon, deceased.

The Administrator de bonis non with the will annexed of said estate having rendered a final account to this Court.

It is ordered, that the 24th day of July, next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate Office, be appointed for examining and allowing said account.

And it is further ordered, that a copy of this order be published three successive weeks previous to the said day of hearing in the Owosso Times, a newspaper printed and circulating in said County of Shiawassee.

MATTHEW BUSH, Judge of Probate.

By CLARISSA GALLOWAY, Probate Register.